

Message Text

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45

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 MC-02 EB-11 CIAE-00 INR-09

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 AID-20 IGA-02 GAC-01 ACDA-19

L-03 RSR-01 /091 W

----- 031515

R 271130 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3460

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, LE, US

SUBJ: GOL REQUESTS UNDER FY 73 FMS AGREEMENT

REF: A. USDAO MSG 191215 Z; B. STATE 54174

1. (C) RATIONALE BEHIND LEB ARMY DESIRES FOR LISTS
SUBMITTED BY REF A AS FOLS:

A. TOW SYSTEM AND M-60 TANKS PRIMARY USE IN DEFENSEIVE ROLE
AGAINST ATTACK FROM SYRIANS. M-60 TANKS IN DETERRENT ROLE
AROUND CAMPS HARBORING FEDAYEEN AND URBAN FIGHTING. C OF S
STATED SIZE OF VEHICLE ITSELF CREATES FEAR IN OPPOSITION.
THIS WAS PRIMARY REASON FOR REQUEST RAPID DELIVERY OF M-113 (APC).
LEB OFFICERS STATE BRIDGES IN SOUTH WILL NOT SUPPORT M-60 TANKS.
(COMMENT: THIS MAY HAVE BEEN ALSO REASON ISRAELI CENTURIONS
APPROX SAME WEIGHT DID NOT VENTURE NORTH OF LITANI IN SEP 72).

B. CRATERING CHARGES ALSO FOR DEFENSIVE ROLE. NUMEROUS
NARROW DEFILES IN MOUNTAINS RUNNING EAST AND WEST MAKES
THIS IDEAL WEAPON TO IMPROVE DEFENSIVE POSTURE.

C. SP- M42 HAS DUAL ROLE AND EXCELLENT WEAPON AGAINST
BUILT UP AREAS AND CAVES. LEB ARMY POSSESSES THIS WEAPON
AND HAS NEVER BEEN USED IN ANTI- AIRCRAFT ROLE AGAINST ISRAEL.

2. CG LEB ARMY STATED M-60 TANKS LOWER PRIORITY THAN ANY OTHER
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ITEMS LISTED REF A.
BUFFUM

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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